

# National Park Service Department of the Interior

## Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area Obed Wild & Scenic River



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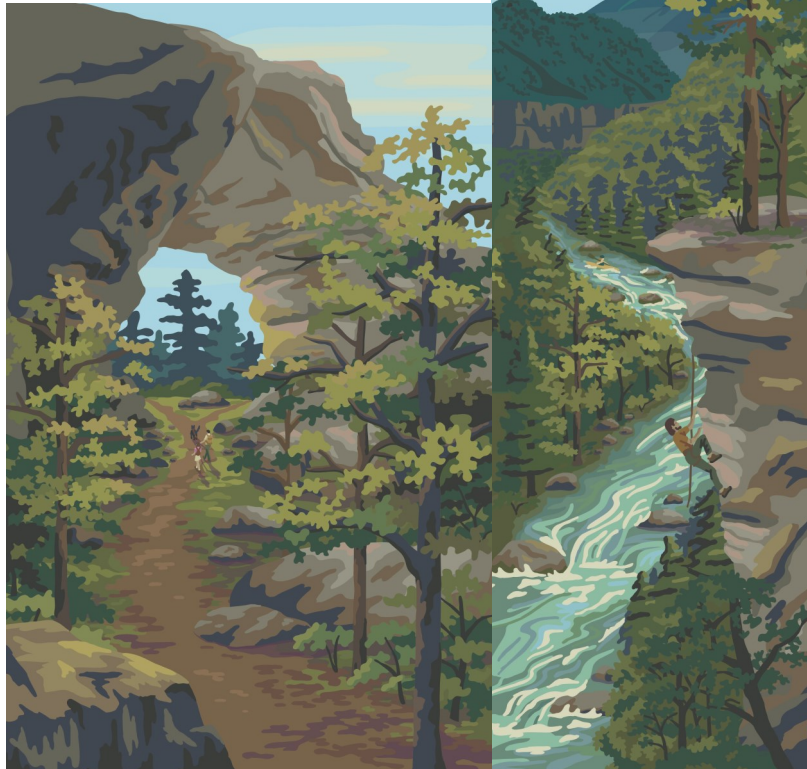
**Blue Heron Decoration Day is Saturday, May 7, from 12 to 4:30 pm ET.** Come for an afternoon of food, music, and fellowship. Staff will be available to copy historic photographs of the Big South Fork. So bring photos of the old home place, family portraits & outings if you would like copies of those photos in the permanent Big South Fork museum collection.

#### Centennial Challenge Hikes for May:

- **Burnt Mill Bridge Loop on Saturday, May 14.** Meet at 10 am (ET) at Burnt Mill Bridge Trailhead for a moderate 4.2 mile hike. Hikers will experience tranquil sounds of swiftly flowing Clear Fork River, rock walls & overhangs.
- **Rock Creek Loop on Saturday, May 28.** Meet at Rock Creek Loop Trailhead at 9 am (ET) at Hattie Blevins Cemetery off Divide Rd. This all day 6.7 mile hike is rated difficult with steep stairs and rocky terrain.

#### Bandy Creek Pool

**Opens May 28.** The pool is open Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays all summer long and can be rented for special events.



**The new Tennessee national parks exhibit is now open on the Knoxville Airport's lower level.**

### Obed Wild & Scenic River

**Annual Obed Clean Up & Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Lunch on Saturday, May 14.** Meet at the Obed Visitor Center at 8:30 am (ET) to help clean up the park. Afterwards, join us at the VC at noon for a volunteer appreciation potluck lunch. Burgers and veggie burgers are provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share.

**DYK?** There has been a 65 percent increase of volunteer hours over the past year!

**Birding Walk on Sunday, May 15.** Meet at Lilly Bridge at 8 am (ET) and bring binoculars and drinking water. Over 160 bird species have been documented in Obed, and spring is an excellent time to observe the park's neotropical migrants.

**Celebrate the Annual TN Mtn Laurel Festival with a Healthy Hike on Saturday, May 21 at 10 am (ET).** Meet at Nemo Picnic Area for a ranger-led 2.6 mile hike along the Nemo to Wartburg section of Cumberland Trail. This moderate-to-strenuous hike follows the Emory River and participants will enjoy the beautiful white and pink floral clusters of blooming mountain laurel along the trail.

**Join us at a ribbon-cutting ceremony and public tour at the New Collections Preservation Center, in Townsend, TN on Friday, May 6 at 10 am (ET).** The new 14,000-square-foot facility will properly care for over 418,000 artifacts and 1.3 million archival records from Big South Fork, Obed, and three other national parks.

The new facility is located at 8440 State Hwy 73, Townsend, TN.

**Bandy Creek Visitor Center**  
**(423) 286-7275, or visit us at:**

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**Obed Visitor Center**  
**(423) 346-6294, or visit us at:**

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